



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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September 29, 2005

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **PD-1**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**2006-07 AND 2007-08 GRADE SEPARATION PRIORITY LIST  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 1, 2, 4, AND 5  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Approve the following list of six proposed grade separation projects located in unincorporated County areas and authorize the Director of Public Works to submit them to the California Public Utilities Commission for their consideration in establishing the 2006-07 and 2007-08 Grade Separation Priority List.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Jurisdiction(s)</u>	<u>Supervisory District(s)</u>
Avenue S over Southern California Regional Rail Authority	City of Palmdale and Los Angeles	5
El Segundo Boulevard over Union Pacific Railroad and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (at Willowbrook Avenue)	Los Angeles County	2
Fairway Drive under Union Pacific Railroad (north of Walnut Drive)	City of Industry and Los Angeles County	1 and 4

<u>Project</u>	<u>Jurisdiction(s)</u>	<u>Supervisory District(s)</u>
Nogales Street under Union Pacific Railroad (at Railroad Street)	City of Industry and Los Angeles County	1 and 4
Sierra Highway/Barrel Springs Road Under Southern California Regional Rail Authority	Los Angeles County	5
Turnbull Canyon Road under Union Pacific Railroad (at Salt Lake Avenue)	City of Industry and Los Angeles County	1 and 4

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Each year, the State highway budget includes funds to aid in financing the cost of constructing or altering highway-railroad grade separations. To determine projects worthy of receiving an allocation, the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) biennially prepares a priority list of the most urgently needed highway-railroad grade separation improvements. If more projects qualify than can be financed from available funds, allocations are limited to those ranking highest on the priority list. The six projects we are submitting appear to be the most eligible crossings within County unincorporated areas for priority ranking and possible funding consideration.

The PUC has requested that local agencies submit project applications by October 21, 2005, for inclusion on the 2006-07 and 2007-08 priority list. The Commission is responsible for establishing criteria to be used in determining the priority of the projects nominated for separation or alteration. The recommended action will authorize the Director of Public Works to submit the projects to the PUC for consideration. Except for the Avenue S over Southern California Regional Rail Authority project, all the other projects were submitted to the PUC in 2003 and are included on the current priority list. However, to be included for Fiscal Years 2006-07 and 2007-08, these projects must be resubmitted to obtain a priority ranking.

#### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action furthers the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence as it provides services to the public in a more responsive manner. Construction of these highway-railroad grade separations will increase safety and allow residents to utilize travel routes that are less congested with no travel delays due to trains.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

By submitting our proposed grade separation projects to the PUC for their consideration, we are not making a commitment to proceed with any of the projects. Consequently, there is no fiscal impact associated with this action. However, if any of our projects receive a high ranking against the other projects submitted Statewide, we would be eligible to receive up to \$5 million in State funds toward the design and construction of the project.

After the PUC establishes the priority list, and if one or more of the County's projects rank high enough to receive an allocation of State funds, I will subsequently recommend to your Board a financing plan to fully fund the project(s).

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Section 2450 of the California Streets and Highways Code establishes the Grade Separation Program to fund projects throughout the State that will eliminate grade crossings. Each year, the California Transportation Commission distributes a total of \$15 million to eligible projects. Prior to July 1 of each year, the PUC establishes a priority list of eligible separation projects throughout the State most urgently in need of construction or reconstruction.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

Pursuant to Section 21080.13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California, grade separation projects are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Each of the projects, which are on the County Highway Plan, will enhance safety and traffic movements by eliminating at-grade highway-railroad crossings.

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**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval, please return two adopted copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE  
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel